

deficient in the Sincerity and Courage which have ever distinguished that Name and Race; their Inclination, have been misrepresented; their natural Faculties depreciated; their Resources miscalculated; their Feelings insulted; until Fury and Despair supplying whatever might be defective in Force, we have seen a whole Army, the Flower of the trained Military Strength of Great Britain and her Allies, famishing in the Wilderness of America, laying down their Arms, and owing their immediate Rescue from Death to those very Men, whom the Murders and Rapines of the Savages (unhappily employed) had forced from Husbandmen into Soldiers, and who had been painted in such Colours of Contempt, as to take away all Consolation from our Calamity.

We have seen another Army, equally brave and equally well commanded, for Two Years in an almost continued Course of Victory, by which they have only wasted their own Numbers, without decreasing the Strength of the resisting Power; without leading to any Sort of Submission, or bringing to your Majesty's Obedience even the smallest and weakest of Thirteen revolted Provinces. The Union of those Provinces amongst themselves, and their Animosity to your Majesty's Administration, have only been increased by the injudicious Methods taken to break the one, and to subdue the other; Fleets and Armies are maintained in Numbers almost equal, and at an Expence comparatively far superior, to whatever has been employed in the most glorious and successful Struggles of this Country, against a Combination of the most ancient and formidable Monarchies of Europe. A few inconsiderable detached Islands, and one deserted Town on the Continent, where your Majesty's combined Army has a perilous and insecure Footing, are the only Fruits of an Expence exceeding Twenty Millions, of Ninety three Ships of War, Sixty Thousand of the best Soldiers which could be procured, either at Home or Abroad, and appointed for that special Service. Your Majesty's Forces both by Sea and Land have (we are told) done all that could be expected from the most accomplished Discipline, and the most determined Courage; and yet the total Defeat of some of these Forces, and the ineffectual Victories of others, have almost equally conspired to the Destruction of your Power, and the Dismemberment of your Empire. We should be unpardonably negligent of our Duty to your Majesty, to ourselves, and to our Country, if we did not thus solemnly express our Feelings upon this dreadful and decisive Proof of the Madness with which this Attempt was originally made; and which, faithfully following it through every Step of its Progress, and every Measure of its Execution, has completed, by uniform Misconduct, the Mischiefs which were commenced in total Ignorance: We are convinced, that not the Delusions of artful and designing Men, (which, like every Thing false, cannot be permanent) but the general Sense of the whole American People, is set and determined against the Plans of Coercion, Civil and Military, which have been hitherto employed against them; an whole, united, and irritated People cannot be conquered. If the Force now employed cannot do it, no Force within our Abilities will do it.

The Wealth of this Nation is great; and our Disposition would be to pour it out with the most unreserved and cheerful Liberality, for the Support of the Honor and Dignity of your Crown; but domestic Peace and domestick Economy are the only Means of supplying Expence for War abroad. In this Contest our Resources are exhausted, whilst those of our Rivals are spared; and we are, every Year of the Continuance of this War, altering the

Balance of our Publick Strength and Riches in their Favour.

We think ourselves bound, most dread Sovereign, to express our Fears and Apprehensions to your Majesty, that, at a Time when your Majesty's gracious Speech from the Throne has hinted, and your vast Naval Preparations, in a Style much more explicit, announce to us and the World the critical State in which we stand with regard to the great neighbouring Powers, we have not the Comfort to learn from that Speech, from any Assurance of your Majesty's Servants, or even from common Fame, that any Alliance whatever has been made with the other great States of Europe, in order to cover us from the complicated Perils so manifestly imminent over this Nation: We have as little Reason to be certain, that Alliances of the most dangerous Kind are not formed against us.

In this State of anxious Doubt and Danger we have Recourse to the Clemency and Wisdom of your Majesty, the tender Parent and vigilant Guardian of your People, that You will graciously take such Measures as may restore internal Peace, and (as far as the miserable Circumstances, into which the late destructive Courses have brought us, will permit) reunite the British Nation in some happy, honourable, and permanent Conjunction; lest the Colonies, exasperated by Rigours of continued War, should become totally alienated from their Parent Country; lest every remaining Spark of their Affection should be extinguished in Habits of mutual Slaughter and Rapine; and lest, in some evil Hour, they, who have hitherto been the great Support of the British Strength, should become the most formidable and lasting Accession to the constant Enemies of the Power and Prosperity of your Kingdoms.

We humbly hope and trust, that your Majesty will give all due Efficacy to the Concessions (we wish those Concessions may not have come too late) which have been proposed in Parliament. And we have that undoubted Reliance on the Magnanimity of your Majesty's enlarged and Kingly Affections, that we are under no Apprehensions of your Majesty being biased by private Partiality to any Set of Men, in a Case where the Good, where the very Being of your People, is at Stake; and with an humble Confidence we implore and supplicate your Majesty, that nothing may stand in the Way of those Arrangements in your Councils and executive Offices, which may best forward the great, necessary, and blessed Work of Peace, which may tend to rescue your Affairs from unwise and improvident Management; and which may obtain, improve, and secure the returning Confidence of all your People. In such Measures and such Arrangements, for such an End, your Citizens of London will never fail to give your Majesty their most affectionate and steady Support.

Signed by Order of Court,

William Rix.

To which Address and Petition His Majesty was pleased to return the following Answer:

*I Can never think that the Zeal of My Subjects, the Resources of My Kingdoms, and the Bravery of My Fleets and Armies, can have been unwisely and improvidently exerted, when the Object was to maintain the Constitutional Subordination which ought to prevail through the several Parts of My Dominions, and is essential to the Prosperity of the Whole. But I have always lamented the Calamities inseparable from a State of War; and shall most earnestly give all the Efficacy in My Power to those Measures which the Legislature has adopted for the Purpose of restoring, by some happy, honourable, and permanent Conciliation, the Blessings of Peace, Commerce, Affection, and Confidence, between the Mother-Country and the Colonies.*